

See Notice CRP-479, Pages 1-7 for:

- **Purpose**
- **Program Policy**
- **Eligible Land**
- **Size Requirements**
- **Eligibility**
- **Cost Share (C/S) Policy**
- **Practice Requirements**
- **Planting Timespan**
- **Environmental Concerns**
- **Practice Maintenance**
- **Management Activity**
- **Technical Responsibility**

A. SPECIFICATIONS

1. Requirements. The practice shall be performed in a manner consistent with the NRCS Field Border (386) technical standard and specification, but only as it pertains to the wildlife purpose of the practice. Eligible plant species are limited to native warm season grasses, legumes, forbs and shrubs beneficial for northern bobwhite quail and grassland songbirds as listed in Part B of this specification sheet. Cover establishment will be primarily by planting, with limited allowance of natural herbaceous succession. Eligible field border areas are determined based on the designated crop field boundary delineated on official Farm Service Agency imagery. It is strongly recommended that all sides of a field be buffered, but the actual edges buffered will be determined by the landowner and the planner. **FOR THE LIFE OF THE CONTRACT, BUFFERS SHALL NOT BE USED AS TURN ROWS, ROADS, OR STORAGE OF CROPS OR EQUIPMENT.**
2. Temporary Cover. Temporary cover when required is authorized in accordance with subparagraph A (C/S policy). A current soil test is strongly recommended for determining the lime and fertilizer requirements of temporary cover. In lieu of a soil test, apply 30 pounds of nitrogen, 60 pounds of phosphorus, 60 pounds of potassium and one ton of lime per acre at the time of planting. When lespedeza is the planned temporary cover, no lime or fertilizer is required.
3. Seedbed Preparation and Planting. A firm seedbed is recommended on non-highly erodible sites. It should be prepared by plowing and discing (or harrowing) and allowed to settle, or compacted with a cultipacker. The seedbed shall be cultipacked again after seeding. The no-till method of seedbed preparation and planting is recommended for highly erodible sites.
4. Lime and Fertilizer. Shrub and native grass plantings do not require fertilizer. Application of phosphorus and potash may still be beneficial to native grass plantings and can be applied and cost shared based on a current soil test. For soils in excess of a pH 5.5, lime is not required. In the absence of a soil test, lime is required to be applied at the rate of 1 ton per acre. Cost sharing shall be based on the current soil test when available.
5. Pesticides. Follow the University of Tennessee recommendations for application of herbicides and insecticides when the no-till method of planting is used. Pesticides must be applied in accordance with the label.

6. Natural Succession. The use of natural succession of herbaceous plants for permanent cover is restricted to areas of 0-2 percent slopes. Temporary cover establishment with Kobe or Korean lespedeza is required in combination with planned natural succession when the enrolled cover is crop residue on non-hydric soils. Hydric soil areas will generally have sufficient seedbank so that temporary cover is not required. Eradication of the enrolled area's existing cover with an approved herbicide is required when the cover is an improved (introduced) grass. Field borders previously established to native grasses are also allowed to be maintained as natural succession regardless of slope.

7. Setbacks. Within the allowed buffer width of 30 to 120 feet, the minimum design width shall conform to required state setback distances for fields scheduled for manure spreading or pesticide applications. This requirement only pertains to the field edge adjacent to the object needing protection. The following table is provided as a guide. These distances are based on having no existing natural buffer between the field edge and the object of concern. If existing natural buffers are present, minimum establishment widths can be reduced accordingly by the width of the existing buffer down to the program minimum width of 30 feet.

| | Waterbody | Public Road | Dwellings |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| <u>Pesticide</u> | | | |
| Corn/Milo | 120 | 30 | 30 |
| Soybeans | 120 | 30 | 30 |
| Cotton | 120 | 30 | 30 |
| Small Grain | 120 | 30 | 30 |
| Tobacco | 120 | 30 | 30 |
| <u>Animal Waste</u> | | | |
| All crops | 60 | 50 | 120 |

The final design width for this practice does not eliminate the landowner's requirement to apply based on a label's stated non-application setback.

8. Infeasible to Farm Areas. There is no allowance within this practice for the enrollment of entire fields due to unmanageable remnants. Field border widths shall not comprise more than 50% of the crop field acreage.

9. Rectangular fields. For fields with a generally rectangular shape (longer than wide), the minimum buffer width on the narrower field edges (end rows) shall be 50 feet, or the required setback width, whichever is greater, to prevent excessive predation.

10. Multiple practices. Cropland field borders eligible for the filter strip (CP21) or riparian forest buffer (CP22) practice should be enrolled in these practices instead of this practice. Existing CP21 or CP22 contracts may have this practice enrolled in addition under the following conditions:

- a. The width of the CP21 or CP22 area does not exceed 90 feet, and
- b. The width of this practice in combination does not exceed 120 feet, and
- c. The application of this practice in combination with CP21 or CP22 does not exceed 50% of the field acreage.

11. Planting Specifications (shrubs).

- a. Shrub plantings are optional for this practice, not to exceed 10% of the contract acreage.
- b. Shrub seedling care and planting shall be performed in accordance with FOTG practice standard 612 (Tree/Shrub Establishment).
- c. At least 680 shrub seedlings per acre (8 x 8 foot spacing) must be planted for any listed species.
- d. A minimum of two (2) shrub species must be planted.
- e. Natural regeneration of shrubs is not permitted.
- f. Shrub planting shall be performed in a block pattern to facilitate management of the herbaceous portions of the field borders. Planting locations should consider connectivity, and enhancement of adjacent woodlands.
- g. Weed control may be required for the survival and establishment of seedlings. Mechanical control alone (such as rotary mowing) is not authorized for johnsongrass, bermudagrass, vines, or fescue. If chemical control is utilized, only the minimal treatment needed to control the undesirable vegetation is authorized in order to avoid potential erosion or water quality contamination (e.g. spot treatment, band spraying).
- h. Temporary cover when required is authorized in accordance with subparagraph A (C/S policy).

12. Criteria for Adequate Stand.

- a. A minimum of 60% of the planted shrubs shall be viable after the second growing season.
- b. Native grass plantings shall have a minimum of one plant per four square feet at the end of the second growing season, or sufficient volunteer herbaceous vegetation and duff must be present and provide 80% or more ground cover with no erosion occurring.

13. Boundary Markers. Designated (approved) fiberglass or metal post markers will be installed every 500 feet along the cropland edges when the final buffer boundary and contract is approved. These markers will be protected from fire and damage. Signs or stickers may be provided at a later date to be affixed to the markers.

B. ELIGIBLE PLANTS

| Eligible Plants | Planting Rate per Acre | Planting Dates |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| MAST BEARING SHRUBS | | |
| Sargent crabapple | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Southern crabapple | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| American (wild) plum | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Chickasaw plum | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Mapleleaf Viburnum | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Spicebush (wet tolerant) | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Silky dogwood (wet tolerant) | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| American elder (wet tolerant) | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Sumac | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Hazelnut | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |
| Washington Hawthorne | 8 foot x 8 foot | Nov 1 – Apr 1 |

| Eligible Mixtures | | Seeding Rate per Acre | Seeding Dates |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|
| NATIVE HERBACEOUS PLANTS | | | |
| Mix 1. (tallgrass mix) | Little bluestem Big bluestem Indiangrass Illinois bundleflower, or Partridge pea | 1 lb. PLS (Pure Live Seed) 1.5 lbs. PLS 1.5 lbs. PLS 1 lb. | March 1 – July 1 |
| Mix 2. (tallgrass mix) | Big bluestem Indiangrass Switchgrass Little bluestem Sideoats grama Illinois bundleflower or Partridge pea | 0.5 lb. PLS 0.5 lb. PLS 0.5 lb. PLS 1.5 lbs. PLS 1.0 lb. PLS 1 lb. | March 1 – July 1 |
| Mix 3. (shortgrass mix) | Little bluestem Sideoats grama Illinois bundleflower or Partridge pea | 2 lbs. PLS 2 lbs. PLS 1 lb. | March 1 – July 1 |
| Mix 4. (shortgrass mix) | Little bluestem Sideoats grama Indiangrass Partridge pea Illinois bundleflower | 2 lbs. PLS 1.5 lbs. PLS 0.5 lb. PLS 0.5 lb. 0.5 lb. | March 1 – July 1 |
| Mix 5. | Switchgrass Kobe or Korean lespedeza | 4 lbs. PLS 10 lbs. | March 1 – July 1 |
| Mix 6. | Switchgrass Partridge pea or Illinois bundleflower | 4 lbs. PLS 1 lb. | March 1 – July 1 |

C. TEMPORARY COVER

| Eligible Plants | Planting Rate per Acre | Planting Dates |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Temporary Cover – Summer | | |
| Millet, browntop | 25 – 40 pounds | May 1 – Jul 1 |
| Millet, white proso | 25 – 40 pounds | May 1 – Jul 1 |
| Millet, foxtail | 20 pounds | May 1 – Jul 1 |
| Millet, Japanese | 20 pounds | May 1 – Jul 1 |
| Millet, browntop | 20 pounds | May 1 – Jul 1 |
| Millet, dove proso | 20 pounds | |
| Millet, browntop | 25 – 40 pounds | May 1 – Jul 1 |
| Kobe or Korean lespedeza | 5 pounds | |
| Millet, browntop | 20 pounds | Jul 15 – Aug 1 |
| Buckwheat | 20 pounds | |
| Temporary Cover – Winter | | |
| Crimson clover | 20 pounds | Aug 1 – Oct 1 |
| Wheat | 1 ½ - 2 bushels | Sep 1 – Oct 20 |
| Wheat | 1 bushel | Sep 1 – Oct 1 |
| Crimson clover | 10 pounds | |
| Oats, winter hardy | 1 ½ bushels | Sep 1 – Oct 20 |

Temporary Cover – Natural Succession Areas (see Item A.6, pg. 73)

Kobe or Korean lespedeza 20 pounds Feb 1 – Apr 15
 (**required** on 0-2% slopes scheduled for natural succession on non-hydric soils)